

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01249 070918Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W  
-----083518 070923Z /17

P R 070856Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9426  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 1249

JOHANNESBURG FOR RFO SWEETWOOD

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: BENC, BEXP, MA  
SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECT: MADAGASCAR APPROACH TO AIRCO ON  
FERROCHROME PROJECT

REFS: A) ANTANANARIVO 0903; B) ANTANANARIVO 1161

1. SUMMARY: MADAGASCAR GOVERNMENT INVITES AIRCO TO MAKE  
OFFER FOR PARTICIPATION IN FERRO-CHROME PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. GEORGES RAMPARANY, CHIEF OF SERVICE OF MINES & GEOLOGY  
IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY & COMMERCE HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO ASSIST  
IN REESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH AIRCO ALLOYS, 3801 HIGHLAND  
AVENUE, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK 14305. MINISTER OF ECONOMY  
& COMMERCE JUSTIN RARIVOSON SENT LETTER TO AIRCO NOV. 4,  
1976 REQUESTING AIRCO MAKE A DEFINITE OFFER TO GOVERNMENT  
OF MADAGASCAR REGARDING ITS PROPOSED PARTICIPATION IN  
MADAGASCAR FERRO-CHROME PROJECT. UNFORTUNATELY LETTER ASKED  
FOR AIRCO'S REPLY BY NOV. 15, 1976. WHICH PRESUMABLY EXPLAINS  
WHY AIRCO DID NOT ATTEMPT REPLY.

3. RARIVOSON LETTER OUTLINES TWO ALTERNATIVES:

I) PROJECT WOULD BE 100 PER CENT GOVERNMENT OWNED IN WHICH  
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CASE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK A FIRM TO MAKE THE NECESSARY  
PLANS, BUILD THE PLANT, MANAGE IT IN THE FIRST YEARS, AND  
HELP MARKET THE PRODUCTION.

II) GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK A JOINT VENTURE PARTNER TO DESIGN,  
CONSTRUCT, & MANAGE THE PLANT & MARKET PRODUCTION.

4. MINISTER REQUESTS THAT AIRCO SPECIFY ITS INTENTIONS FOR

BOTH ABOVE ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE PROJECT, PROPOSED FINANCING, AND COMPANY REFERENCES.

5. AS REF A INDICATES (100,000 TONS ANNUAL PRODUCTION) FERRO-CHROME PLANT TO USE ELECTRICITY FROM ANDEKALEKA (ROGEZ) HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, IS ONE OF GOVERNMENT'S MOST FAVORED MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. EMBASSY GRATIFIED THAT AN AMERICAN COMPANY INCLUDED IN THE FIVE FOREIGN FIRMS INVITED TO OFFER PARTICIPATION. RAMPARANY REPORTED THAT THREE FIRMS HAVE REPLIED TO DATE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: USDOC PLEASE CONTACT WILLIAM H. WISE (PHONE (716)-285-1252) AT AIRCO & INFORM HIM THAT MINISTER OF ECONOMY & COMMERCE WOULD STILL WELCOME REPLY TO HIS LETTER OF NOVEMBER 4, 1976. SUGGEST THAT AIRCO SEND IMMEDIATE INTERIM REPLY TO MINISTER WITH COPIES TO EMBASSY. EMBASSY WILL INSURE THAT RAMPARANY RECEIVES COPIES. EMBASSY WILL POUCH JULY 8 (TO COM/BIC/OED/MEPD T. FIEDLER) COPY OF MINISTER'S LETTER BUT WISHES SUGGEST THAT EVEN IF AIRCO NO LONGER HAS ORIGINAL LETTER, IT NOT WAIT FOR OUR AIRPOUCHED COPY BEFORE INTERIM REPLY TO MINISTER. USDOC PLEASE INFORM AIRCO THAT ALL FINANCING NOW ARRANGED FOR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AND THAT PRESELECTION PROCESS ALREADY BEGUN (REF B.)BARRETT

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009